

USOE HAPPENINGS

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REMINDERS

Math and science reference sheets used in spring CRT testing are available for use in instruction on our web site at http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/info_math.aspx or www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/info_science.aspx.

Queries on ELL Student Quizzes—AKA UALPA

UALPA testing should now be in full swing. The USOE has distributed Scoring Guides and the USOE Computer services section is ready to score UALPA answer documents. The USOE asked districts previously to store answer documents for any tests administered up to this point. District scorers may now score the constructed response sections of the test (if they have not already done so) and then send answer documents to the USOE for the remaining scoring. We remind you of the guidelines for UALPA testing, which require you to send at least 50 percent of your UALPA tests to the USOE for scoring by February 28, 2008 and the remaining 50 percent by May 15, 2008. Of course, you are welcome to send answer documents as soon as constructed response scoring is complete, whenever you have them. You do not need to wait until February.

UALPA student reports and Class reports will be provided each week throughout the

school year. Note that the turnaround time is contingent on answer documents being sent in a clean and organized manner. See the 2007-08 UALPA Coordinator's Guide for more information.

You will soon have the Cut Score Lookup Table for the UALPA2, which is the version of the test you are administering this year. Please do not use the Cut Score Lookup Table entitled "2006-07 UALPA1 CUT SCORES" for any scores obtained with UALPA2.

We recognize that UALPA testing has, to this point, been a bumpy road. We do feel, however, that the bumps are smoothing out and that the test scores you will obtain with the UALPA2 will be better. We have compared the scores obtained with UALPA1 to scores on the IPT, and they compare favorably. We have also been impressed with the correlation of the percentage of ELL students scoring proficient on the CRT ELA tests with the percentage of students on the A level of the UALPA. We have responded, to the degree possible, to requests from district assessment and

ALS directors for changes in the rubrics used to score writing samples, in the scoring of speaking items, and in splitting the I (Intermediate) proficiency level to allow for more accurately in placing students instructionally. We remind you that administration of an academic language proficiency test is required by the federal government. NCLB Title III requires that the instrument used for assessing ELL students be aligned to state standards and that it test academic language proficiency. The UALPA meets those requirements. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that all K-12 English language learners identified as needing English as a second language instruction have their proficiency level determined and progress reported annually. In addition, participation of schools, districts, and the state is required in order to qualify for the allocation of Title III funds. (Continued on page 3)

Compare the MATH Cores at YOUR Convenience

Comparing the 2006-07 math core to the 2007-08 Math Core can assist with many questions you might have. These scores are available now on our web site at http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/info_math.aspx. There are elementary and secondary core links.



CBT

Computer-Based Testing (CBT)

Information concerning computer-based testing (CBT) is now posted on the CBT section of the Assessment website:
http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/info_cbt.aspx

If your school is participating in CBT this year, training will be provided by local personnel at your district or

charter school. This training will address both technical and proctoring/administrative issues.

For questions concerning when training will be available, or how CBT will be implemented, please contact your district or charter school Assessment Director.

CBT – Computer-Based Testing refers to the online administration of our Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs) that is offered during your spring testing window.

RESULTS—What We All Want— Now AMAOs

Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs)

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability measures called annual measurable achievement objectives (AMAOs) were implemented to evaluate the services that Title III-funded districts and the state provided to limited English proficient (LEP) students.

NCLB legislation requires Title III-funded districts to meet three AMAOs; the first two relate specifically to English language proficiency.

AMAO 1— Measures improvement in the percent of LEP students who make

progress in learning English.

AMAO 2— Measures improvement in the percent of LEP students who attain English language proficiency. (This report shows if students have met the expected goal)

AMAO 3— Measures improvement in the percent of LEP students who are successful on the state reading and mathematics CRTs used in AYP determinations.

In conjunction with educational measurement experts, second language acquisition consultants, and an advisory group, the USOE is in the process of reviewing the performance targets and developing new AMAOs. The principles guiding the devel-

opment process should be easy to understand and make sense to Utah educators and parents; set rigorous, yet achievable annual performance targets; take into account the length of time second language learners have been in U.S. schools; lead to a focus on improved instruction; minimize unintended consequences related to identifying, serving, and exiting LEP students; and be accurate indicators of the extent to which the state and districts are improving instructional services.

How to Become a Scorer for the DWA

All licensed teachers in good standing with the Utah State Office of Education have the opportunity to become certified Six Traits online scorers for the sixth and ninth grade DWA and to receive recertification points for completing the 16-hour online tutorial. Applications will be accepted through February 16, 2007. Training will be from April 2-9. Teachers may work from a home or office computer to learn the Six Traits of Writing Assessment in-depth. An IBM compatible PC must meet minimum requirements (detailed list at website). Qualified scorers will be compensated \$150 for completing the training and may earn \$10-13 per hour for time spent scoring the DWA. If qualified to score, scoring period will be approximately April 10-May 4 (may end sooner). Scorers become temporary employees of Pearson Educational Measurement and are expected to score a minimum of 20 hours per week. Scorers will be required to abide by the Utah State Office of Education Ethic practices. If scorers are approached about the protocol for scoring essays, they should refer questions to the USOE Assessment and Accountability Web page or to USOE DWA specialist Margaret Young.

CBT Summit on the Horizon

Utah is moving rapidly toward full implementation of computer-based testing. This is a major transition year, with districts significantly increasing the numbers of students completing their CRT tests via computer. To facilitate the implementation of a computer-based format, the USOE assessment staff, key education stakeholders, and national experts will meet in November to explore, discuss, and identify key issues. Input

will be given by those with knowledge of computer testing issues and those who will be affected by decisions made at the summit and in subsequent months.

Representatives from every district have been invited. Participants include district personnel in assessment and IT, a representation of building level principals, State School Board members, and state legislators.

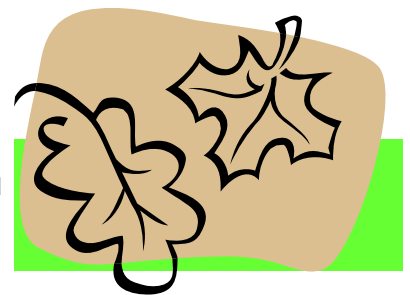
The intended goal of the summit is to produce a “white paper” that will be used to inform Utah’s long term vision for computer-based testing. This paper will include such issues as delivery methods, item formats, scoring approaches, reporting, integration with existing management systems, logistics, and practicalities.

Materials for Upcoming State Assessments

Here at the USOE, we have filled trimester/semester orders for four districts. This is a reminder that these materials are only available to be ordered until November 30th. Also closing November 30th is the opportunity to order UBSC/T materials by school! We are hoping that this will provide one booklet for every student while cutting back on the number of booklets you need to handle at the schools. And don't forget that the order window for DWA is coming up fast! Large Print and Braille are available for all these assessments, so make sure you send those orders to your District Assessment Directors!

Queries on ELL Student Quizzes— AKA UALPA

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Understanding the Ethics Training Requirements

An ethics training protocol was approved by the Utah State Board of Education last January to help make sure all educators are given the same information for administering mandated tests so that all students receive the same testing environ-

ments for those tests. All educators should have received this training before proctoring any test. Please practice these guidelines so the testing environment consistent is for all students. If you have any questions on ethical testing practice, please

contact your district Assessment director or the State Assessment Director at Deborah.Swensen@schools.utah.gov. All material provided for the training is available on our web site at www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/district_administrators.aspx.

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**The next Assessment
Directors' meeting is
being held in conjunc-
tion with the CBT
summit.**

Workshops

**UALPA Item Writers are VIPs!!! Come Join us in
Nebo, November 13-15! Compensation available!**

**WE NEED ITEM WRITERS! Contact Jauni Porter—
801-538-7702**

WE NEED TO TEACH KIDS ON THE EDGE OF
THEIR LEARNING. IF WE DON'T, THEY ARE
EITHER FRUSTRATED OR BORED.

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/>

Utah Test Item Pool Service (UTIPS)

Did you know that UTIPS is available to every educator, teaching any subject in Utah's public schools K-12? You can create tests using the USOE's item pool, but you can also create your own tests. Yes, all of those tests that you have used for years can be administered through UTIPS – regardless of what subjects you teach. Without spending hours and hours grading tests, you can now focus your energy on using the results to guide your instructional activities. Most file types can be used in your questions (graphics, audio, websites, video, etc), and you can align your own test questions to the USOE curriculum. This alignment allows you to screen student mastery of the curriculum on those assessments that mirror your instruc-

tion. Would you like to learn how? Contact your local school or district UTIPS trainer and they'll be happy to show you!

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

November:

11/2— State Board of Education Meeting

11/29-30— UEA

11/7-8—CBT Summit—Assessment

11/8—LEAD

11/12—Charter Director's meeting

11/28-29—CBT Trainings—Assessment

12/11-13—CBT Trainings—Assessment

11/17—Family Volunteer Day

11/29-30—UBI Fall Institute

December:

12/7—State Board of Education Meeting

12/13—LEAD